Agriculture Victoria continues to provide agricultural recovery support services to landholders

Content in this support guide is also available at agriculture.vic.gov.au

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Victorian and Commonwealth governments are supporting landholders impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires across Victoria.

For information on bushfire recovery, please contact:

Bushfire Recovery Victoria
Phone 1800 560 760

Bushfire Recovery Victoria can connect you with other recovery services and information provided by the Victorian Government.

Agriculture Victoria

If you are looking for advice on recovery of your farm business, system or property, please don’t hesitate to call our Agriculture Recovery Managers:

- North East Agriculture Recovery Manager
  Kylie Macreadie on 0428 975 728
- Gippsland Agriculture Recovery Manager
  Keren Walker on (03) 5159 5118
- Or email Firerecovery.Agriculture@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Agriculture Victoria can provide farm-related technical support in the following areas:

- Animal health
- Animal nutrition and feed budgeting
- Grazing and pasture management
- Farm water planning and management
- Soil erosion management
- Farm planning
- Livestock water quality
- Irrigation systems and management

For other assistance from Agriculture Victoria please call 136 186

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR MANAGING YOUR FARM AFTER A FIRE

We have a range of guides, factsheets, calculators and checklists that can help recovery on your farm


SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Victorian Bushfire Concessional Loans

Victorian Bushfire Concessional Loans of up to $500,000 provide fire-affected primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits with concessional loans to help them in their recovery efforts.

These loans are intended for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits who have suffered significant damage to their assets and/or a significant loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.

Applications close on 31 December 2020.

For further information contact:
business.gov.au
Email: governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au
Ph: 1800 260 425

Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grants (Commonwealth/State support)

Grants of up to $50,000 are available for small businesses and not-for-profit organisations (who are not primary producers) that have suffered direct damage as a result of bushfire.

Grants are to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of eligible small businesses.

For further information contact:

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ph: (03) 8662 5160
Small Business Bushfire Support Grant
(Commonwealth/State support)

Grants of up to $10,000 to support small businesses (including primary producers) significantly affected by the bushfires to recover and rebuild resilient businesses.

Eligible activities include meeting standard business costs, seeking financial advice, adjusting the business to be viable in the changed local context following bushfire and improvements to make the business more resilient to future disasters.

Available to eligible small businesses in the local government areas of East Gippsland, Towong, Alpine, Wellington, Indigo, Mansfield and Wangaratta who have suffered a decline in revenue of 40 per cent or more in a relevant three-month period.

Businesses can apply for this grant in addition to other bushfire grants.

Applications close on 31 December 2020.

For further information contact:
Rural Finance
Ph: 1800 260 425
Visit: ruralfinance.com.au

Bushfire Clean-up Program

Registration is open for the 2020 Clean-Up Program which is being delivered by Grocon on behalf of the Victorian Government.

The program covers costs associated with the demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by the bushfires.

This includes residential homes and sheds, commercial and public buildings and other out-buildings.

Funding is available to insured and uninsured properties.

Fencing, trees and vehicles may be removed, but only where necessary for the safe clean-up of destroyed buildings.

For further information and to register for the clean-up, contact:

Bushfire Recovery Victoria
Ph: 1800 560 760
Email: BushFireRecoveryVictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au

Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants

Grants of up to $75,000 per business to assist primary producers directly affected by the 2019-20 bushfires with costs associated with immediate recovery activities needed to rebuild their primary production enterprises.

Eligible activities include cover the cost of clean-up and repairs, including rebuilding or replacing damaged farm fencing and other infrastructure, and salvaging or harvesting damaged crops.

It also covers repairing damage caused by fire, smoke, ash or soot, including smoke taint affecting grape growers and other vegetable producers.

The grants are available in eligible fire-affected local government areas across Victoria.

Applications close on 31 December 2020.

For further information contact:
Rural Finance
Ph: 1800 260 425
Visit: ruralfinance.com.au

Meat & Livestock Australia’s Back to Business Program

Allows red meat producers in fire-affected regions to access up to three free one-on-one sessions with a local farm business consultant to help put their business back on track.

The Back to Business program in Victoria is being coordinated by Agriculture Victoria.


You can also contact Victorian State Coordinator: Lyndon.Kubeil@agriculture.vic.gov.au or 0418 532 085

For further information or to register visit: surveymonkey.com/r/WB3GZ28
or Meat & Livestock Australia at backtobusiness@mla.com.au.

Applications close on 30 September 2020.
Wine grape industry assistance

Funding will be available for growers to access technical decision-making support as a follow-up to laboratory testing.

Regional wine associations are also eligible for funding to support group activities, such as sensory panels or technical workshops.

Factsheet: Wine industry support PDF

Factsheet: Wine Industry support Word doc

For more information, contact:
Email: smoke.taint@agriculture.vic.gov.au

HiveAid

Hive Aid is a drought and bushfire relief campaign to support Australian professional beekeepers struggling from the difficult conditions being experienced across the country.

It is managed by Rural Aid and overseen by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

To donate or to register for assistance, visit capilanohoney.com/au-en/for-bees/hive-aid

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.

Counsellors can provide referrals to other professional services including accountants, agricultural advisors, education or counselling.

Counsellors can also assist applicants to apply for financial support programs.

Call the Rural Financial Counselling Service:
1800 686 175 (toll free) or
Western RFCS: 1300 735 578
Eastern RFCS: 1300 045 747
North East RFCS: 1300 834 775
North West RFCS: 1300 769 489

Or visit agriculture.gov.au/assistance

Fire-damaged agricultural fencing

Farm fencing adjoining State and National parks and State forests:

For fire-damaged fences between private land and National Parks, State Parks or State forests, the Victorian Government will contribute 50 per cent of repair costs.

Where landholders wish to upgrade these fences to exclude pests such as wild dogs or to fire-resistant fencing the Victorian Government will pay half the cost up to $5 per metre.

Farm fencing destroyed by firefighting activities:

The Victorian Government will pay 100 per cent of the restoration costs for fences on private land that have been damaged through fire control and suppression measures by fire agencies and their staff.

For further information contact the DELWP Contact Centre:
Ph: 136 186 (8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday)

Or:

Bushfire Recovery Victoria on 1800 560 760
Visit: vic.gov.au/your-property
# WELLBEING SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General support</td>
<td>See Relief &amp; Recovery information at Vic Emergency or contact the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line. General Practitioners can also provide valuable support and arrange additional assistance if required.</td>
<td>Vic Emergency emergency.vic.gov.au/relief Information Line Ph: 1300 799 232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent mental health concerns</td>
<td>If you have urgent concerns about the mental health of others or yourself there are services available. In an emergency you can also call 000 for assistance.</td>
<td>Mental Health Services Ph: 1800 808 284 (available 24 hours) Nurse on Call Ph: 1300 606 024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800 RESPECT</td>
<td>A 24-hour counselling service delivered by qualified experienced professionals.</td>
<td>Ph: 1800 737 732 1800respect.org.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids HelpLine</td>
<td>Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.</td>
<td>Ph: 1800 551 800 kidshepline.com.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ParentLine</td>
<td>Counselling and information for families with children up to 18 years. Open 8am to midnight, seven days.</td>
<td>Ph: 132 289 parentline.com.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MensLine Australia</td>
<td>24-hour counselling and advice for men.</td>
<td>Ph: 1300 789 978 mensline.org.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeline</td>
<td>24-hour telephone counselling, information and referral service.</td>
<td>Ph: 13 11 14 lifeline.org.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyondblue</td>
<td>Provides information on depression and anxiety.</td>
<td>Ph: 1300 224 636 beyondblue.org.au</td>
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